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**NASHUA COUPLE SENTENCED FOR SELLING
COUNTERFEIT IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono reports that Fabio N. Costa and Andrea Neves-Costa were sentenced in U.S. District Court today for selling counterfeit identification documents. Mr. Costa was sentenced to 5 months in federal prison and 5 months of home confinement, to be followed by 2 years of supervised release. Ms. Neves-Costa was sentenced to 4 months of home confinement.

The defendants, who are Brazilian citizens, are married. They are both 31 years-old and they reside at 9 Sapling Circle in Nashua.

Mr. Costa and Ms. Neves-Costa pleaded guilty on April 17, 2003, to selling counterfeit Alien Registration Receipt cards, which are commonly referred to as "green cards," counterfeit Social Security cards, and counterfeit alien Employment Authorization cards. Fabio N. Costa admitted to 12 counts of such sales and Andrea Neves-Costa admitted to 10 counts of such sales.

United States Attorney Tom Colantuono said that, "Cutting off the availability of counterfeit identification documents is central to the effort to ensure the internal security of the United States. By prosecuting cases like this, we intend to make it as difficult as possible for those who are intent on committing crimes within our borders and those who are in the United States illegally to conceal their true identities and their immigration status."

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security (formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service). It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark S. Zuckerman.